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NEWS Release

For Immediate Release

Topic: Moisture-Density Gauge
Lost in Starkville Area
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Pritchard Engineering, Inc., of Starkville is asking residents in the area to notify local authorities if the company's missing moisture-density gauge containing radioactive sources is found.

Mississippi State Department of Health officials said the company apparently lost the gauge when transporting it from a work location in rural Oktibbeha County to Starkville along Mount Olivet Road.

The orange moisture-density gauge weighs about 30 pounds and was being transported in an orange shipping container the size of a small trunk approximately 24 inches long, 16 inches high, and 16 inches wide. The gauge itself is 15 inches long and 9.5 inches wide with a 17-inch tall black handle.

The gauge is used as an inspection tool on earthwork and paving construction projects. Radioactive material contained in the gauge remains safe when intact and shielded, but the material can endanger people if the device is damaged.

Public health officials urge anyone who finds the container and gauge to stay away from it and immediately notify the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-222-6362 or Pritchard Engineering, Inc., at (601) 324-2205.

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